



# COPS in Action

Community Oriented Policing Services

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## Ocean City, NJ



"We want to resolve problems and find answers. The problem could be a small one, like trash removal. If we can't solve it, we'll find out who can and help them. It might be a big one, like crime prevention. We want to keep the community safe."

Sergeant Steve Ang  
Ocean City Police Department

"We want to go out to the citizens in town, talk with them and find out what their concerns are," explained Sergeant Steve Ang of the Ocean City Police Department's Community Oriented Policing (COPS) unit. "We want to know what kinds of problems people are having in their neighborhoods." It is with this philosophy that the COPS unit "set up shop" at a recent opening of a supermarket. Customers were provided with information and pamphlets from safety information about bicycle helmets for children and adults to child safety seats to home burglary and fire protection. "We knew there would be a lot of curious citizens checking out the new store", said Sergeant Ang. "Our basic concept is to go out to the people."

As a result of Sergeant Ang and the COPS Unit's tireless efforts, the citizens of Ocean City have reveled in the positive impact on their community. Whether it's the COPS unit attending an opening of a new local business or patrolling neighborhoods on their bikes, the officers are providing a more visible and approachable police presence. "We find that people are much more comfortable approaching an officer on a bicycle than they are when an officer is in a car. There are no physical barriers."

The officers of the COPS unit have also discovered that patrolling city streets and parks on their bikes is an effective crime fighting tool during the busy tourist months of this ocean side community. "We can patrol the Boardwalk in the summer, and move around the bikes. We often stop unruly behavior that a patrolman walking or in a car would not see," said Sergeant Ang. "Our presence alone reminds people to be careful, and kids not to get out of control."

Sergeant Ang is joined by Patrolman Jay Pettyman, Dennis Jones, Chad Callahan and Dave Hall in the COPS unit.

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